

Application No. 10/638,174
RCE Submission dated September 8, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, and 16 have been amended. Claims 2, 5, 6, 13-15, and 20 have been canceled. Claims 21 and 22 have been added. No new matter has been introduced as a result of these amendments. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-12, 16-19, 21, and 22 are currently pending in the application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7-12, and 15-19 under 35 USC § 102(a) and 102(e) as being anticipated by Vaganov (USPN 2002/0181843 A1). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration of the application.

Independent claims 1, as amended, recites "a mirror positioned opposite the input optical fiber and the output optical fiber" and "the bends in the input and output optical fibers direct the beam of light from the input optical fiber to the mirror to the output optical fiber." Amended independent claim 7 recites "a mirror positioned opposite the plurality of input optical fibers and the plurality of output optical fibers" and "the bends in the input and output optical fibers direct the beams of light from the input optical fibers to the mirror to respective output optical fibers." Independent claim 16, as amended, recites "reflecting the beam of light off a mirror positioned opposite the input optical fiber and the output optical fiber, wherein the bends in the input and output optical fibers direct the beam of light from the input optical fiber to the mirror to the output optical fiber." Applicant respectfully submits Vaganov does not anticipate Applicant's independent claims 1, 7, and 16 because Vaganov does not disclose each and every element in the claims.

The optical switches shown in Figures 4 and 5 in Vaganov depict input optical fibers (12) emitting light directly towards the output optical fibers (26). Figure 25 also illustrates the input optical fibers (14) transmitting light directly towards the output optical fibers (20). The optical switches shown in Figures 4, 5, and 25 do not

include "a mirror positioned opposite the input optical fiber and the output optical fiber."

Figure 2 in Vaganov teaches an optical switch that uses two sets of mirrors (16, 20) to direct light from the input optical fibers to the output optical fibers. The first set of mirrors (16) is positioned opposite the input optical fibers but not the output optical fibers, while the second set of mirrors (20) is positioned opposite the output optical fibers but not the input optical fibers. Vaganov therefore does not teach "a mirror positioned opposite the input optical fiber and the output optical fiber ... wherein the bends in the input and output optical fibers direct the beam of light from the input optical fiber to the mirror to the output optical fiber." Therefore, for at least the following reasons, Vaganov does not anticipate independent claims 1, 7, and 16.

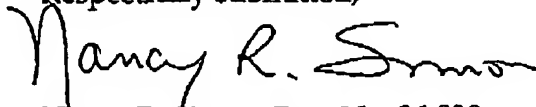
"Claims in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim incorporated by reference into the dependent claim." 37 CFR 1.75. Claims 2, 5, 6, and 21 depend from independent claim 1, claims 8-12 and 22 from claim 7, and claims 17-19 from independent claim 16. For at least the reason discussed above, Vaganov does not anticipate independent claims 1, 7, and 16. Consequently, claims 2, 5, 6, 8-12, 17-19, 21, and 22 are also not anticipated by Vaganov.

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In light of the amendments and discussion above, Applicant believes that all claims currently remaining in the application are allowable over the prior art and respectfully requests allowance of such claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy R. Simon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

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